

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures ~~13A-13H~~ 13A and 13B present the results of gene ~~data bank~~ databank analyses suggesting that genes closely related to IREN exist on several of the human chromosomes. Figure 13A shows nine analyses against the htgs databank. Figure 13B shows five analyses against the est databank. The query (top strand) in each of the homology analyses of Figs. 13A and 13B is ~~with sequences in the gene data bank~~ is always nucleotides 499-699 498-699 of SEQ ID NO:4. The SEQ ID NOs for the ~~strand~~ strands designated "sbjct" (bottom strand) in the different homology analyses are as follows:

Figure 13A, first and second analyses, nucleotides 498-699 of SEQ ID NO:4;

Figure 13A, third through seventh analyses, SEQ ID NO:10;

Figure 13A, eighth analysis, SEQ ID NO:11;

Figure 13A, ninth analysis, SEQ ID NO:12;

Figure 13B, first analysis, nucleotides 498-699 of SEQ ID NO:4; and

Figure 13B, second through fifth analyses, SEQ ID NO:10.

~~Fig. 13A — nucleotides 499-699 of SEQ ID NO:4;~~

~~Fig. 13B — SEQ ID NO:10;~~

~~Fig. 13C — SEQ ID NO:10;~~

~~Fig. 13D — SEQ ID NO:10 and SEQ ID NO:11;~~

~~Fig. 13E — SEQ ID NO:12;~~

~~Fig. 13F — nucleotides 499-499 of SEQ ID NO:4 and
SEQ ID NO:10;~~

~~Fig. 13G — SEQ ID NO:10;~~

~~Fig. 13H — SEQ ID NO:10~~